

Radio Aliases

Section IV (a)

Policies

- (a) Agencies may choose to implement radio aliases as an option.
- (b) If radio aliases are desired, use the format **CCAAAARRRR** where:
 - CC is a two digit **COUNTY** identifier as shown in section (4)(a). State agencies do not require this identifier.
 - AAAA is a two to four character (alphanumeric) **AGENCY** identifier as shown in section (4)(a).
 - RRRR is a variable length **RADIO** identifier. This can be any length that an agency desires, but for readability in a variety of radios, IPSC suggest that the identifier be the minimum length necessary, e.g., 3 or 4 characters.
 - If desired, the underscore character may be used throughout to increase readability, e.g., CC_AAAA_RRRR.
- (c) The agency identifier, when combined with the county identifier, must be unique throughout the system. Agencies choosing to join the system will be asked to select a one to four character identifier. Selected identifiers will be compared to existing identifiers to ensure against duplication.
- (d) To avoid confusion, use the exact same radio alias in the Alias Database, User Configuration Subsystem and user radios.
- (e) Abbreviate aliases only when absolutely necessary.
- (f) Mobile or Portable designators may be used at the end of the alias as an agency option.

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1) Background

Each radio and talkgroup programmed into a dispatch position on the system is assigned a unique 6-digit radio number (ID) when it is created. If radios are assigned an alias, the radio alias will be displayed on wireline consoles instead of the radio ID; however aliases will not be displayed on receiving radios. Although radio aliases can be time consuming and cumbersome to administer, IPSC has developed these policies for managing radio aliases.

2) Capabilities

- (a) Radio and talkgroup console IDs are 6-digit numbers that range from 700001 to 765535, some of which are saved for system use.
- (b) Radio IDs should be unique; however it is possible to designate the same radio ID with two different aliases in different user radios. Note that this would require additional software in the radios and should be avoided. Typically, radios equipped with a display will show the ID of the transmitting radio.
- (c) Radio aliases exist in three separate locations:
 - i) Alias Database Manager (ADM)
 - ii) User Configuration Subsystem (UCS)/Smartzone Manager terminal
 - iii) Radios (via Radio Service Software or RSS)
- (d) Radio aliases will appear in both the UCS and the Alias Database Manager. Radio aliases will also appear in the appropriate talkgroup channel control window of wire-line consoles.
- (e) Typically the radio alias of the transmitting radio does not appear in receiving radio's display. Dependent upon the receiving radio's model and software options, a seven-digit radio ID may appear in the display. Radio aliases are only programmable into field radios by users who wish to create customized Private Call / Call Alert lists. Radio ID display software represents an additional cost to agencies and is not typically recommended.

3) Constraints

- (a) Programming of aliases is an agency responsibility and will require a manager terminal with the capability of adding mobiles and portable configurations to the system.
- (b) User radios have limited display capabilities. Examples are:

	Analog		Digital	
Mobile	LCS 2000	No Aliases	Spectra W3	11 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 1	8 Characters	Spectra W7	8 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 2	14 Characters	Spectra W9	11 characters
	MCS 2000 Model 3	14 Characters		
Portable	LTS 2000	No Aliases	XTS 3000 Model 1	No aliases
	MTS 2000 Model 1	6 Characters	XTS 3000 Model 2	14 characters
	MTS 2000 Model 2	14 Characters	XTS 3000 Model 3	14 characters
	MTS 2000 Model 3	14 Characters		

4) Recommendations

- (a) In order to facilitate interoperability and eliminate duplication of radio aliases, agencies should use a two to three character prefix for each of their radios. This will easily allow an agency to recognize another agency's radios. For local government agencies residing within a county, including city agencies, IPSC requires that each of the radios begin with the corresponding numerical county identifier shown below:

Indiana Counties

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|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Adams | 8. Carroll | 15. Dearborn | 22. Floyd |
| 2. Allen | 9. Cass | 16. Decatur | 23. Fountain |
| 3. Bartholomew | 10. Clark | 17. Dekalb | 24. Franklin |
| 4. Benton | 11. Clay | 18. Delaware | 25. Fulton |
| 5. Blackford | 12. Clinton | 19. Dubois | 26. Gibson |
| 6. Boone | 13. Crawford | 20. Elkhart | 27. Grant |
| 7. Brown | 14. Daviess | 21. Fayette | 28. Greene |

29. Hamilton	45. Lake	61. Parke	77. Sullivan
30. Hancock	46. LaPorte	62. Perry	78. Switzerland
31. Harrison	47. Lawrence	63. Pike	79. Tippecanoe
32. Hendricks	48. Madison	64. Porter	80. Tipton
33. Henry	49. Marion	65. Posey	81. Union
34. Howard	50. Marshall	66. Pulaski	82. Vanderburgh
35. Huntington	51. Martin	67. Putnam	83. Vermillion
36. Jackson	52. Miami	68. Randolph	84. Vigo
37. Jasper	53. Monroe	69. Ripley	85. Wabash
38. Jay	54. Montgomery	70. Rush	86. Warren
39. Jefferson	55. Morgan	71. St. Joseph	87. Warrick
40. Jennings	56. Newton	72. Scott	88. Washington
41. Johnson	57. Noble	73. Shelby	89. Wayne
42. Knox	58. Ohio	74. Spencer	90. Wells
43. Kosciusko	59. Orange	75. Starke	91. White
44. LaGrange	60. Owen	76. Steuben	92. Whitley

Using this convention, examples of radio aliases for city and county agencies are:

41GF_108	Greenwood Fire Department radio
41S_2003	Johnson County Sheriff's Office radio
54CP_332	Crawfordsville Police Department radio

Examples of state and federal agency radio alias prefixes are:

State and Federal Agencies

ATC	Alcoholic & Tobacco Commission
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DEM	Department of Environmental Management

DNR	Department of Natural Resources	FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
DOA	Indiana Department of Administration	ISP	Indiana State Police
DOC	Department of Correction	NG	Indiana National Guard
DOR	Department of Revenue	SEM	State Emergency Management Agency
DOT	Indiana Department of Transportation		

Using this convention, examples of radio aliases for state and federal agencies could be:

DNR_4008	Indiana Department of Natural Resources radio
DOT_5254	Indiana Department of Transportation radio
FBI_6301	Federal Bureau of Investigation

- (b) Select user radios that are capable of displaying the full name of the radio alias desired.
- (c) If selecting a variety of user radios, some of which may have limited displays, verify that the entire radio alias can be displayed when desired.
- (d) Aliases may be related to personnel, identification or badge numbers. However, if radios are frequently exchanged or serviced, management of aliases may become very time intensive. Also, if changes are made, modifications will be required in the following three systems:
 - i) Alias Database Manager (ADM)
 - ii) User Configuration Subsystem (UCS)
 - iii) Radios (via Radio Service Software or RSS)